

FOR YOUNG PEOP

"Life is such a wonderful gift." pays tribute to author



basketball brackets! p18



history of orchids



March 24, 2023 - Vol. 4, Issue 152 - \$5.99 Making sense of the world





This week's big news



Returning to work



Nearly 12 million US women left their jobs during the pandemic, compared to 10 million men. Now women are returning in large numbers. As of February, businesses had hired more women than men for four straight months, and women held more than 49.8% of all jobs other than farming in the US.

Gender equality tied to health

Residents of countries that prioritize women's rights tend to live longer, according to a new study. The research is believed to be the first to link gender equality with the length of people's lives.

The new study, released in the science journal

What happened?

PLOS Global Public Health, found that both women and men are likely to live longer in countries that adopt policies that advance women's rights. A team at the George Institute for Global Health in Australia and Imperial College London, in the UK, examined data from 156 countries. It was gathered between 2010 and 2021 by the World Economic Forum (WEF). The team used it to develop a global gender gap index, which let them see how gender policies affect people's life expectancy (the average time a person is expected to live, based on age and **Cat Pinho-Gomes** other factors, including gender). They studied four factors: health, economic

What is gender equality?

Gender equality is when the interests, needs, and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration and when rights, responsibilities,

opportunities, education, and political leadership.

and opportunities are the same. When this doesn't happen, it creates what is called a "gender gap," which puts women at a disadvantage. Worldwide, women are paid an average of 20% less than men, according to the International Labor Organization. Women are also more likely than men to do lowerpaid or unpaid work. Globally, about 129 million girls cannot go to school. When women and girls make less money or can't get an education, they have fewer job options, poorer working and housing conditions, less money for childcare or food, and reduced access to healthcare.

What did the study find?

The study found that the single most important factor in gender equality is access to education for women and girls. The lack of women in top government roles also has a major effect. Of the 156 countries studied, 31 have female heads of state. The study said that

women working at all levels of government face discrimination (unfair treatment of a person or group) and have less support from political parties. This means there are fewer women with the power to enact policies that improve broader gender equality.

Why are the findings significant?

During the Covid-19 pandemic, many women left the workforce, which increased gender inequality around the world. Before the pandemic, the WEF estimated it would take 99.5 years to close the gender gap. That estimate is now 135.6 years. Countries with greater gender inequality have weaker economies. By contrast, when women are in a position to make decisions, they tend to focus on issues like healthcare and education, which make societies healthier and wealthier for all genders. "Women's empowerment and participation in political, economic, and social life has broad benefits," said the study's lead author, Cat Pinho-Gomes. The study found that every 10% increase in a country's gender equality index in 2021 brought an increased life expectancy of 4.3 months for women and 3.5 months for men.

What did the study recommend?

The study encouraged nations around the world to invest in the rights of women and girls, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, where females have fewer opportunities. The authors called for increased educational opportunities, greater access to healthcare, and workplace policies like flexible hours and paid family leave.

Study focuses on plastic pollution

A new study found that there are more than 170 trillion plastic particles in the world's oceans, marking a major increase in plastic pollution over the past 15 years. Plastic pollution occurs when single-use plastics, like bags and straws, or fishing equipment, like nets, end up in the ocean. These items break down into smaller pieces called microplastics, which resemble confetti on the water's surface and harm the environment, wildlife, and people.

Scientists studied about 12,000 samples taken from the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans and the Mediterranean Sea between 1979 and 2019. The highest rate of increase occurred after 2005, when global plastic production increased.

The team urged government leaders and the plastic industry to make fewer plastic products to begin with, use more recycled materials, and improve manufacturing and disposal processes. "We must act now at a global scale," said Marcus Eriksen, an author of the study. "It's time to address the plastic problem at the source."





New stamp honors author

The US Postal Service (USPS) released a new stamp in honor of acclaimed author Toni Morrison. The stamp was issued on March 7 at a ceremony at Princeton University, in New Jersey, where Morrison taught from 1989 through 2006.

Morrison was born in Ohio in 1931. While working as an editor at Random House, she had her first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, published in 1970. She wrote 10 more novels after that, including the widely acclaimed *Song of Solomon* and *Beloved*. In 1998, she won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. In 1993, she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, making her the first Black woman to receive a Nobel in any category. Morrison also wrote essays, speeches, plays, lyrics for an opera, and children's books. She died in 2019 at age 88.

At the ceremony, Morrison's son Ford called the stamp "a great honor." Former US President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama wrote a letter that was read aloud by Princeton professor Ruha Benjamin. Media personality Oprah Winfrey recorded a video tribute for the event.

Princeton has opened an exhibit called *Toni Morrison: Sites of Memory*, which includes drafts of her work and letters she wrote. The university is also hosting many events, including concerts inspired by her work and a lecture series about her.

"Toni told fundamental truths about our country and the human condition," the Obamas wrote in their letter. "But she didn't just reflect what was true. She helped generations of Black Americans reimagine what was possible."



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR.

AN IMPRESSIVE DISCOVERY

A clam found in Florida was named Aber-clam Lincoln after calculations showed it was 214 years old—and born the same year as Abraham Lincoln. Experts returned the mature mollusk to the sea. "He's earned the right to stay out there," said one.



VEGAN TREATS

The Hershey's candy company has updated two classics. The first plant-based Reese's Peanut Butter Cup, made with oat milk chocolate, goes on sale this month. A second vegan treat, an oat chocolate candy bar with almonds and sea salt, will hit store shelves in April.

The new sweets



THANKING A VOLUNTEER

Arlene Cole, age 92, is being honored for her long service as a volunteer weather observer for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Every day for 65 years, Cole has recorded the high and low temperature, snow levels, and rainfall in her town of Newcastle, Maine. The data is used to track climate change.





National news



Creative solution for cows



When snow and rain in Northern California left some ranchers unable to get food to their cattle, "Operation Hay Drop" was put into place. Firefighters and US Coast Guard members flew helicopters to the cows and dropped hay for them to eat. The mission helped feed the cattle herds of about 30 ranchers.

Extreme weather strikes California

Alate-winter storm has struck huge areas of California, bringing extreme rain and snow that has flooded roads, damaged buildings, and triggered rescues and evacuations. The storm followed a winter in which California has been repeatedly hit by heavy rain and snowfall.

What happened?

Starting March 10, the coastal ranges of central California and the lower elevations of the Sierra Nevada Mountains were hit by heavy precipitation (snow and rain) from atmospheric rivers. An atmospheric river is when water vapor from the ocean gets swept up by wind currents and is carried for thousands of miles in the air, appearing like rivers in the sky. Higher in the mountains, the storm dumped one to two feet of snow.

What were some of the effects?

In Monterey County, more than 8,500 people faced evacuation orders or warnings. More than 50 people in the community of Pajaro had to be rescued by emergency crews after high waters broke through the Pajaro River's levees (structures that prevent flooding). An 85-foottall tree in San Francisco fell and crushed part of the roof of a historic building.

What is being done to help people?

Gavin Newsom, the governor of California, declared a state of emergency in 34 counties, providing them with state resources. President Joe Biden approved a Presidential disaster declaration to bring federal help to the affected areas. In San Bernardino County, a hotline was created for residents who were facing food shortages, frozen pipes, damaged roofs, and other problems. Volunteers delivered donated food, bottled water, snow shovels, and other supplies to people in need. A church group delivered medical supplies to people who were trapped by the snow, some of whom were elderly. Helicopters were used to get emergency supplies to people who lived on roads that were closed due to the disaster.

What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press on March 14, an atmospheric river over California was bringing more rain, and millions of people were under flood and evacuation alerts. Once the storm passes, government officials will assess the damage and begin making repairs.

WORD # WEEK

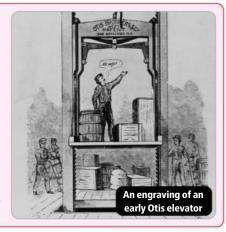
PLASTIC

The word "plastic" was inherited from the Italian in the 17th century, but its story is much older. It began with the ancient Greek plastikos, meaning "able to be molded into different shapes." It kept this meaning in English until the early 1900s, when it developed into today's description of a material that gets molded into different shapes.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

March 23. 1857

First commercial elevator is used On March 23, 1857, the world's first commercial passenger elevator gave people a lift up five floors of a department store in New York City. It was designed by Elisha Otis and powered by a steam engine. The creation of elevators is believed to have helped make the building of skyscrapers possible. Today, there are more than one million Otis elevators and escalators in operation worldwide.



National news





Skier achieves historic victory

American skier Mikaela Shiffrin earned her 87th career win, setting the record for the most World Cup titles by any skier, male or female, in the world. Shiffrin, age 28, set the record when she won the slalom on March 11 in Sweden, breaking the record set by Ingemar Stenmark, a male Swedish skier who competed in the 1970s and 1980s. "It's pretty hard to describe—and it's not over yet," said Shiffrin, who will compete in more World Cup races this season.



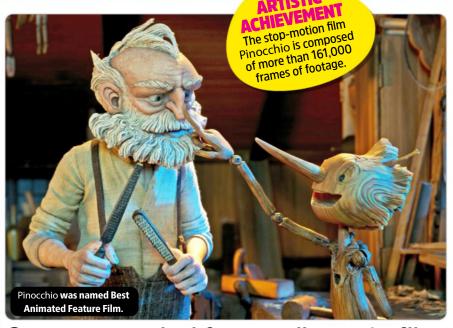
Navy ship renamed for sailor

The US Navy has renamed a warship after Robert Smalls (1839–1915), a Black sailor who had been born into slavery and served on a steamer ship during the Civil War (1861–65). Smalls led one of the first mass boycotts against segregation in public transportation and later served five terms in the US House of Representatives. The USS Robert Smalls is currently deployed to Japan.



Bear emerges from winter den

The first grizzly bear in Yellowstone National Park to come out of hibernation was spotted on March 7, park officials said. Grizzly bears eat in the summer and fall to build up fat reserves and hibernate (go into deep sleep) in winter, when food is hard to find. Male bears begin to come out of hibernation in March, and females start to emerge in April. Yellowstone is home to more than 700 grizzlies.



Oscars awarded for excellence in film

The most prestigious prizes in the film industry were awarded on March 12 at the 95th Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars. The televised event was held at the Dolby Theater in Los Angeles, California, and was hosted by comedian Jimmy Kimmel.

Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio received the first award of the ceremony for Best Animated Feature Film. Based on the classic children's story,

it was made using stop-motion animation and handmade puppets. The other nominees in the category were Marcel the Shell with Shoes On, Puss in Boots: The Last Wish, The Sea Beast, and Turning Red.

In the category of Best
Animated Short Film, The
Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the
Horse received the Oscar. When
the movie premiered on Apple TV+
in December, co-writer and director

in December, co-writer and director Charlie Mackesy told *The Week Junior* that he hoped the film "shows that the greatest things in life are kindness and love."

The award for Best Documentary Short Film went to *The Elephant Whisperers*, which is about a couple in India who care for orphaned elephants. It is the first Indian film to win in the category.

Songs nominated for Academy Awards were performed at the ceremony. These included Rihanna singing "Lift Me Up" from *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* and Lady Gaga singing "Hold

My Hand" from Top Gun: Maverick.

Everything Everywhere All at Once, an R-rated film about an Asian American family, collected the most awards, with seven.

The film was named Best Picture, and three of its stars won top acting awards.

Michelle Yeoh became the first Asian woman to receive the prize for Best Actress in a

Leading Role. Ke Huy Quan won for Best Supporting Actor, and Jamie

Lee Curtis won for Best Supporting Actress. Yeoh gave a moving speech, calling the award "a beacon of hope and possibilities" and proof that "dreams do come true."



THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Alligator interrupts lacrosse practice at Florida high school" *UPI*





Around the world



Denmark Lost gold studied

Scientists have found the oldest reference to the ancient Norse god Odin on a disc made of gold. Discovered in 2020, the disc suggests Odin was worshipped as early as 401. The disc features an inscription and a swastika, an ancient religious symbol that later became widely associated with Nazi Germany and is now viewed as a hate symbol.



Geneva, Switzerland Women in power make history

For the first time in history, women have been elected in every parliament (government) around the world, according to a new report by an organization based in Geneva. In the 47 countries that held elections in 2022, women won an average 25.8% of seats. Women's participation in global parliaments was also the most diverse it has ever been, with more women of color running for election than ever before.



Paris. France UK and France leaders hold summit

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and French President Emmanuel Macron held a summit (important meeting) to discuss a variety of issues, including a rise in refugees arriving in the UK by boat. The UK promised \$577 million to France to help prevent refugees from crossing the English Channel to the UK in small boats. The leaders also promised to train Ukrainian soldiers to fight against Russian forces.



Nigeria State elections postponed

Nigeria's local elections have been postponed by a week, due to questions surrounding the use of technology. Digital tablets were used in February's presidential elections, when Bola Tinubu from the All Progressives Congress (APC) party won. But critics say the tablets allowed the APC to fix the results in their favor and want the devices inspected.

Qena, Egypt ■ Sphinx found

A statue of a smiling sphinx (a mythical creature in ancient Egyptian culture with the head of a human, the body of a lion, and the wings of an eagle) has been discovered in Egypt. Archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people long ago) discovered the limestone statue inside a tomb in an ancient temple. Experts believe the sphinx may represent the Roman Emperor Claudius, who ruled in the first century.







Around the world





Greece Sculptures return home

The Vatican (a city-state in Rome, Italy, and headquarters of the Catholic Church) is returning three fragments of 2,500-year-old sculptures to Greece. The fragments show a boy, a bearded man, and a horse. They have been in the Vatican's art collection for 200 years but were taken from the Parthenon, an ancient temple in Athens, Greece.



✡

Israel Nationwide protests continue

On March 11, up to 500,000 people took to the streets across Israel in one of the biggest protests in the nation's history. For 10 weeks, Israelis have protested plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to limit the power of Israel's top court and change how laws are made, giving the government more power. Opponents to the changes say they threaten democracy and that Israel is facing its "greatest crisis."





Solo hikers banned

Nepal has banned international travelers from hiking alone in its national parks beginning April 1. They will have to hire a licensed guide instead. The rule does not apply to locals. The country, where eight of the 10 tallest mountains in the world are located, including Everest, drew more than 300,000 hikers from abroad in 2019. The government says the decision will help ensure safety and reduce search-and-rescue operations costs for lost hikers.



have restored their relationship after seven years of rivalry. The countries broke ties in 2016 after a series of violent incidents. In a new deal mediated by China, however, Iran pledged to halt attacks against Saudi Arabia. The two countries have also agreed to reopen embassies (official offices that represent countries abroad) in each other's capital cities.





Kochi, India Fire breaks

Fire breaks out on landfill

Schools closed and people were advised to stay indoors after a giant landfill (site where garbage goes) burst into flames. Firefighters tried to control toxic fumes and smoke from spreading across Kochi, which has a population of about 670,000 people. Landfills produce methane gas, which can catch fire and is damaging to the environment.



The big debate

Should museum admission be free?

Some people think museums belong to the people, but others say the money matters.

What you need to know

- Most art museums get less than 10% of their annual budget from admission fees. Others rely on admission fees to make up more than one third of their budget.
- Admission prices can range from about \$5 to \$30, often with reduced rates for students and others. Some offer occasional free admission days.
- In 2012, 37% of US museums were free to enter or asked for a suggested donation rather than charging an admission fee.

n recent years, a string of major museums have "gone free," allowing people to view their exhibits without paying an admission charge. Reactions to the change have been mixed. Some people are celebrating the increased access, while others are concerned about how a loss of admission fees could affect museums. After the Hammer Museum in California dropped its ticket fee, attendance rose by about 15%, and the number of repeat visitors also increased. However, the Hammer and other museums have had to raise money from private donors to make up for lost income. What do you think? Should museum admission be free?



Yes—art belongs to all of us

Museums are like libraries of art, culture, and history. They belong to the public, and everyone should be able to visit. When admission fees are charged, museums become a luxury only for those who can afford it. And visits become crowded and stressful: Many museums are packed with too much art to see in one visit, so people try to do it all in one day to avoid paying another fee to come back. If museums were free, visitors could wander in a relaxed way. Besides, museums receive millions of dollars from federal, state, and local governments, so taxpayers are already supporting them. It's not fair to ask the public to pay more.

No-museums need the funds

Museums are caretakers of cultural history and priceless artifacts, and an admission fee reminds the public that these institutions are doing an important job. Museums need the resources to build and care for their collections. Otherwise, they may not be around for future generations. Museums that stop charging for admission may have to cut staff and programs, and they could become crowded with visitors, which wouldn't be good for guests or the artwork. Many museums already have free online galleries that everyone can visit. They shouldn't have to give up an important source of income.

Three reasons why museum admission should be free

- Museums are a public good that should be accessible to all, not just to people who can pay for admission.
- 2 Making museums free would allow people to take their time and appreciate the exhibits over multiple visits.
- Museums already get enough money from other sources.

NO Three reasons why museum admission should not be free

- Admission fees help museums continue doing the important work of preserving our cultural history.
- If fees weren't charged, museums would be crowded and less pleasant to visit.
- Many museums make exhibits and galleries available for free online, which is a wonderful opportunity to "visit."

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if writing by hand is better than typing. You were almost evenly split on the outcome: 49% of you said yes, while 51% of you said no.

What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit <u>kids.theweekjunior.com/polls</u> so you can vote in our debate. Vote <u>YES</u> if you think museum admission should be free or <u>NO</u> if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

A big life in politics

Senator Dianne Feinstein is retiring from a trailblazing government career.

the first state to have two

Boxer and Dianne Feinstein

were elected.

fter more than 30 years in the US Senate A(one half of Congress), Dianne Feinstein of California is retiring. She has announced she will serve out her current term but will not seek reelection in 2024. As the longestserving female senator in US history, she has played a major role in American politics.

Feinstein, age 89 and a Democrat, was raised in San Francisco, California, and attended Stanford University. Her career included many firsts. She was the first female president of the San Francisco Board of

Supervisors (the city's governing body) and served as San Francisco's first female mayor from 1878 to 1988. In 1992, she was elected California's first female US senator.

Some of Feinstein's work in California involved improving its water systems and decreasing forest fires. In the Senate, she pushed for legislation to achieve goals such as reducing gun violence, fighting crime, and ensuring that people of the same sex have the right to be legally married. From 2017 to 2021, she was the leader of the Senate Judiciary Committee, one of the most powerful committees in Congress.

Recent reports have said Feinstein is experiencing memory loss that has female senators when Barbara affected her performance as a senator. Experts have said that could have motivated Feinstein not to seek another term.

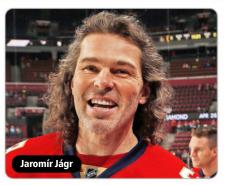
> "Each of us was sent here to solve problems," Feinstein said when she announced her retirement. "That's what I've done for the last 30 years, and that's what I plan to do for the next two years. My thanks to the people of California for allowing me to serve them."



Mourning a jazz icon

Wayne Shorter, a legendary saxophonist who helped shape modern jazz music, died on March 2 at age 89. Born and raised in New Jersey, Shorter entered the jazz scene in the 1950s and earned a music degree from New York University. He worked with fellow jazz icon Miles Davis, both in Davis' band and on his groundbreaking records. Shorter's intricate harmonies and lyrics won him top music awards, and his songs are still influential today. His song "Footprints" is often taught to high school bands across the country.





Athlete breaks record

ockey star Jaromír Jágr scored his 1,099th hockey goal, breaking award-winning player Wayne Gretsky's record for combined goals in professional and international hockey tournaments, on February 5. A former National Hockey League player and two-time Stanley Cup winner, Jágr is currently playing his 35th season of the sport with the Kladno Knights in the town where he grew up in the Czech Republic. Jágr is a co-owner of the Knights and told The New York Times, "I would never have been a hockey player if it was not for this town and this club."





Animals and the environment



A helpful type of algae

Coral relies on algae inside its body for food. According to a study on the Uva Island reef in Panama, coral that survived three heat waves in the Pacific Ocean were more likely to "host" a species of algae that tolerates warmer water. Scientists think that hosting more of it may have helped protect the coral.



Lab-grown coral could save reefs

Scientists around the world are working together to protect coral from disease and the effects of global warming. In indoor tanks,

researchers are breeding different types of coral so they can return the strongest ones to the ocean.

Coral reefs have been called "rainforests of the sea" because they are home to millions of species of fish, crabs, clams, starfish, squid, sponges, lobsters, sea turtles, and more. Coral reefs also provide a barrier along coastlines to protect the land from waves, storm surges, and floods. Scientists estimate that since 1950, the planet has lost half of these important reefs.

The greatest threat to the reefs is climate change (long-term changes in weather patterns, largely due to human activities). Corals look

like plants or rocks but are actually small, soft animals inside a hard

skeleton. Tiny, colorful algae live in the coral and produce the food it needs. But unusually high water temperatures can cause coral to expel algae in a process called bleaching. The coral loses its food source, turns white, and is likely to die or be harmed by diseases.

As ocean temperatures rise, researchers have been studying reefs that are surviving better in warmer water. In underwater nurseries, they are growing baby corals from these resilient reefs. The goal is to return these corals to the reefs to give the ocean's ecosystem (group of plants and animals that affect one another) a better chance.

A similar strategy is being used to save the world's third largest reef, near the Florida Keys. The reef is suffering from an outbreak of stony coral tissue loss disease, which could destroy 20 of its 45 coral species. Scientists have removed some corals from the reef and are breeding them in a lab. They will test which corals are most able to resist the disease. Then they will transplant hundreds of thousands of those back into the reef to replace the ones that are dying. Jim Kinsler, of the Florida Coral Rescue Center team, told CBS News that if the plan succeeds, they will be "rescuing an entire ecosystem."



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Angelfish inhabit

many reefs.

Hiawatha National Forest, Michigan

This forest's 894,836 acres are a gateway to three of the five Great Lakes — Superior, Michigan, and Huron — and also include islands, lighthouses, and scenic trails. Its Point Iroquois Lighthouse and Peninsula Point Lighthouse are in the National Register of Historic Places. Peninsula Point is also a popular place to view monarch butterflies and migratory birds. In the mornings, chickadees, nuthatches, and other birds create a "woodland concert" near the Au Train Songbird Trail. Other wildlife in the forest include black bears, gray wolves, coyotes, whitetail deer, eagles, and hawks.



Animals and the environment



Cockatoos are tool masters

offin's cockatoos are rather clever. A Study has revealed that these bright birds can use a set of tools and pick out the right tool for a task. Only two other species are known to be able to do this: humans and chimpanzees.

Two years ago, researchers in Austria learned that cockatoos could craft their own tools from tree branches. The team recently studied 10 cockatoos to see if they understood how to use the tools. The birds were given a box with a cashew nut inside and then were offered two different

tools. One was short and sharp, and the other was long and flexible.

First, the birds had to slice through a thin paper barrier. Then they had to push the cashew out of the box. Six cockatoos figured out the best way to get their prize: using the sharp tool to cut the paper and the long tool to reach the nut. They even remembered to bring both tools along for the next round. "'Bird brain' should actually be a compliment," said study author Alice Auersperg. To see the cockatoos in action, visit tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Cockatoos.

Sinai Baton **Blue butterfly**



The number of Sinai Baton Blue butterflies is rising, researchers report. The species was declared critically endangered in 2012. People have been raising awareness and protecting the Sinai thyme plants the Baton Blues depend on.

- LIFE SPAN: Likely a few weeks
- **HABITAT:** Mountains in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula
- **SIZE:** Wingspan is less than one third of an inch
- **DIET:** Nectar from Sinai thyme plants
- **FUN FACT:** Smaller than a pea, it is thought to be the world's tiniest butterfly species.



Good week / Bad week



Cheetahs

Twelve cheetahs have arrived in India from South Africa. Along with a group of eight cheetahs from Namibia, they are part of a project to restore the species' population in India, where the last native wild cheetahs died out in 1952.



Eurasian lynx

Without help, Eurasian lynxes could disappear from France within 30 years, according to new research. An estimated 150 of the wild cats live in France's Jura mountains. Illegal hunting and car accidents are among the reasons for their decline.



"Why do tortoises have a little head and a big body?" Lucv. 10. California

Sara Morgan Senior keeper, Oregon Zoo

To stay safe from predators, a tortoise retracts its head into its body using strong neck muscles. Its head needs to be small enough to fit comfortably inside its shell. Even giant tortoises—the largest of the species - have pretty small heads compared with how large their shells and bodies are.



Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about Oregon Zoo at oregonzoo.org.



All about orchids

Fascinating flowers

Discover the beauty of one of the world's oldest flowering plants.

Orchids are some of the most popular flowers in the world. The plants are prized for their uniquely shaped and brightly colored blooms. But there's more to orchids than meets the eye.



and beetle in amber

How orchids evolved

The first orchids appeared 112 million years ago, when dinosaurs still walked the Earth. Orchids have evolved (changed very slowly over time) in ways that

helped them survive for so long. Like most flowering plants, orchids rely on birds and insects to carry their pollen from one flower to another, which lets the plants reproduce. Pollen is usually powdery and falls off in flight, but about 64 million years ago, orchids evolved to have sticky balls of pollen that don't fall off. Some orchids have creative ways to stick their pollen onto insects, such as by slinging pollen "arrows" at them. Others have a petal that looks like a female bee, which helps them attract male bees.



A rainbow of orchids

Orchids are the biggest group in the plant kingdom, with more than 25,000 species. They grow on every continent except Antarctica. The largest orchid, the Jacob's Ladder, has petals that can reportedly grow 3 feet long, while the smallest orchids have to be viewed under a microscope. One of the most popular varieties is Phalaenopsis, which has been bred in nearly every color—from bright red to orange, yellow, purple, white, and even black. Their patterns can be striped, speckled, or solid.



orchids. Male orchid bees fly around gathering scent compounds from flowers and plants, which they store in special chambers on their hind legs. By combining scents, each bee creates its own fragrance—which scientists believe helps attract mates. Meanwhile, visits from the bees pollinate the plants so they can reproduce. Certain orchids release scents—like cinnamon or even rotting meat—that attract a particular bee species. Some orchids have developed sticky traps to ensure that bees pick up pollen as they collect the scents.

All about orchids



in many colors





Orchid fever

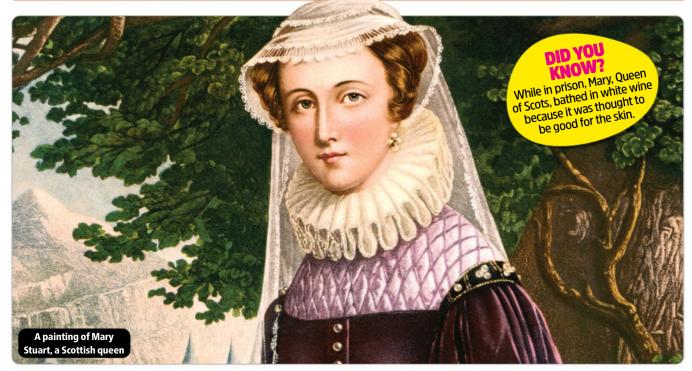
In the 1800s, orchids became extremely popular in England. Because they mostly grew in tropical environments, the flowers were considered exotic and special. People paid orchid hunters to find the plants in faraway lands. Collecting and displaying orchids in a greenhouse became a symbol of high status, and the price for a single flower rose into the thousands of dollars. While this craze—nicknamed "orchidelirium"—eventually died down, orchids are still beloved around the world. The New York Botanical Garden has hosted its annual Orchid Show for 20 years. This year's show, featuring thousands of colorful blooms, was designed by landscape artist Lily Kwong and will be on display through April 23.



Sights, smells, and tastes

People love the smell and taste of orchids almost as much as they enjoy looking at them. Some wild orchids, including the Cattleya variety, produce fragrant scents that have inspired perfumes. In Malaysia, people eat the leaves of one species and use another as a seasoning. People in some parts of the world also boil the leaves and bulbs of certain orchids for use in herbal medicines. Orchids are also the source of one of the world's favorite flavors: vanilla. A vanilla bean is actually the fruit of an orchid. The flat-leaved vanilla orchid (Vanilla planifolia) produces almost 98% of the vanilla sold around the world. So next time you enjoy a sweet scoop of

Science and technology



A queen's secret letters are decoded

Expert codebreakers have deciphered letters written in code by Mary, Queen of Scots, a 16th century Scottish queen. Also known as Mary Stuart, she was queen of Scotland from 1542–67 and queen consort (wife of the king) of France from 1559–60. Mary was famously imprisoned in England in 1568, by her cousin Queen Elizabeth I.

At the time, Roman Catholics and Protestants (two branches of Christianity) were fighting. Mary was Catholic and Elizabeth was Protestant. Mary wrote to her supporters from prison using a code made of symbols. The letters were smuggled out by trusted advisers. After 19 years in prison, Mary was accused of taking part in a plot to kill Queen Elizabeth. She was executed (killed as a punishment for a crime) in 1587.

The team of codebreakers consisted of computer scientist George Lasry, pianist and music professor Norbert Biermann, and Satoshi Tomokiyo, a physicist. They found the documents in the online archives of the National Library of France, where they were incorrectly labeled. Experts at the library did not know who wrote them or what language they were in.

Mary's code was hard to break because there was more than one option for every letter of the alphabet. Using computers and manual methods, the team deciphered 150,000 symbols, which made up 50,000 words. They learned that the letters were written in French by a woman. In French, some words have a masculine and

feminine form, depending on the sex of the speaker. The writer used the feminine

form of *ma liberté* (my freedom).

The mention of freedom led the team to believe she was in prison. They became certain that it was Mary when she wrote of "Walsingham," which

referred to Francis Walsingham,

a man who worked with Queen Elizabeth and had a large network of spies. Mary also wrote about the

conditions she was kept in, her poor health, and her attempts to persuade Elizabeth to set her free.

One of Queen

Mary's coded letters

Lasry, Biermann, and Tomokiyo have fulltime jobs and worked on the letters in their spare time, so it took them about a year to finish the project. Historians had suspected Mary's letters existed but thought they were lost. "You never know what you may find," Lasry told NPR. "You need to keep digging."

An unbreakable code



In 1990, American artist Jim Sanborn installed his sculpture, titled "Kryptos," outside the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA, the US government organization that collects information about other countries) in Langley, Virginia. Sanborn engraved nearly 2,000 seemingly random letters on the 12-foot-tall sculpture, which is shaped like a scroll.

Within the letters are four messages in code that form a riddle—and only three of them have been cracked. Codebreakers have tried for years to solve the fourth message but are still stumped. Sanborn has revealed a few clues since the sculpture was installed, but after more than 30 years, the remaining message still hasn't been fully solved.

14

Science and technology



People know if they like a song within seconds

After hearing five seconds of a song, listeners can tell if they will like it, according to new research from New York University (NYU).

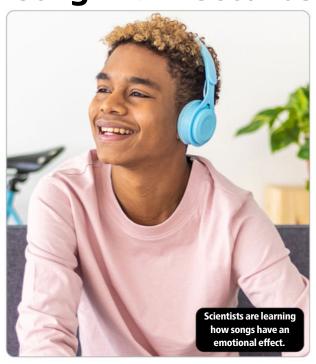
A team led by Pascal Wallisch, a data scientist at NYU, asked 643 people to listen to clips of 260 songs. The songs spanned a

The songs spanned a variety of genres, such as classical, jazz, hip-hop, and rock, from artists such as Beethoven, Elvis, and Nirvana. The team divided the songs into 3,120 clips of about five, 10, or 15 seconds that sampled different parts, like the intro or chorus.

Listeners were asked to rate how much they liked a particular song or clip, from "hate it" to "love it." They were also asked to describe how many times they had listened to a song before, ranging from "never" to "too many to count." The research found that the way participants reacted to a short clip of a song they didn't know predicted how they would feel about the entire song. This was true even for clips as short as five seconds. It was also largely true

regardless of which part of
the song people listened
to. People who listened
to a whole song before
listening to clips of it—or
who were familiar with the song
beforehand—were even more likely to
rate the clips and the full song the same.

Wallisch said the results could help scientists understand how songs call up certain emotions for listeners. "The fact that a small excerpt is enough to tell us if we like it or hate it suggests that we respond more to the general vibe that a song brings to us rather than its musical notes." Wallisch said.





Shape-shifting liquid to cool buildings

Scientists at the University of Chicago created a material that could let buildings use the heat from the Sun to control indoor temperatures. Most buildings use heating and cooling systems powered by fossil fuels that are harmful to the environment.

The new cladding (material that covers the outside of a building) is made with an inner layer that can switch from a liquid to a metal and back, based on the outside

temperature. This technique allows the cladding's color and the amount of heat it absorbs or releases to change. When the material is liquid, it releases heat. When it's metal, it's a sheet of solid copper that keeps heat in. A small amount of electricity activates the transformation.

On a warm day, the cladding can release up to 90% of the building's heat to keep the inside cool. On a cold day, it could release as little as 7%, keeping the inside warm.



An Italian company called Cap_able created clothing to block facial recognition, a computer technology that identifies people in photos or in real time. It can be used to unlock phones and track employees at work. Some people, however, prefer not to be identified.

The clothing uses bright, complicated patterns that facial recognition programs interpret as an animal print, such as that of a giraffe's fur or a zebra's coat. Once the computer matches the pattern to an animal, it does not bother to scan the face for a human match.



Reader photos of the week









ADDISON; AUSTIN; CORA; EMILY; JUDD; RAGHUVIR

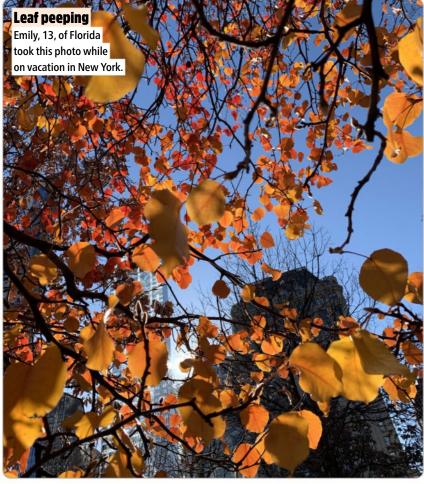
Reader photos of the week















Sports





Get ready for the biggest

The NCAA men's basketball tournament will be played in 13 locations before wrapping up in Houston, Texas.



NCAA TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

What's happening

Each spring, the top college basketball teams play in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament, also called March Madness. The field is made up of teams that won their conference tournaments and those chosen for their strong regular-season records. The winner of each game moves to the next round.

Men's teams to watch

Alabama is the overall top-ranked team for the first time in the program's history, but several experts have picked Houston to win it all. Keep an eye on Houston's star freshman Jarace Walker, who may be drafted by the National Basketball League this year. Meanwhile, Jalen Wilson (averages 20.1 points per game) will try

to help last year's champion, Kansas, become the tournament's first repeat champions since 2007. Another top contender is Purdue, which has 7-foot-4 center Zach Edey (averages 12.8 rebounds per game). One team that already has won fans' hearts is tournament newcomer Kennesaw State, which never had a winning Division I basketball record until this season.

Sports





event in college hoops

Most of the women's tournament will take place in two cities before it moves to Dallas, Texas, for the Final Four.



NCAA TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

Women's teams to watch

This year, the women's bracket is broken into four groupings, with games played in either Greenville, South Carolina, or Seattle, Washington. Defending national champion South Carolina, led by star player Aliyah Boston (averages 13.3 points and 9.7 rebounds per game), is the number one overall seed. They

had an undefeated season and will be tough to beat. Among the other top teams, expect to see exciting performances from Indiana's Mackenzie Holmes, Stanford's Haley Jones, and Virginia Tech's Elizabeth Kitley. But all eyes will be on number two seed Iowa's Caitlin Clark, who averages 27 points per game and was the Division I leader in assists and three-pointers.

Find out more

Use these brackets to follow the men's and women's tournaments. Predict which team you think will win each game and who will be the semifinalists and champions. To learn more about teams and players, visit ncaa.com. You can download printable versions of these brackets at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Brackets2023.



Arts and entertainment



Book becomes animated movie

The Magician's Elephant, based on a novel by Kate DiCamillo, is a story about the power of hope and believing in what is possible.

Over the years, several books by awardwinning author Kate DiCamillo have been turned into films. The latest one is *The Magician's Elephant*, which is now in select theaters and streaming on Netflix.

The film is based on the 2009 book of the same name. The story is set in Baltese, a town that lost hope after a war. The main character is a kind orphan named Peter. His family died in the war, but he believes his sister is alive and wants to find her. He visits a fortune teller, who mysteriously

says to "follow the elephant." He's confused at first, but soon her message makes sense. Producer Julia Pistor told *The Week Junior* she wanted to adapt the book into a movie because it was a "wonderful story about belief and hope."

Fans of the book will notice plot changes in the film. Pistor and director Wendy

Rogers said one reason they were necessary is because a film requires more action than a book. Pistor said DiCamillo "loves what we did."

Baltese's look was inspired by architecture in southern Europe and northern Africa. In the sky are bubble-like

clouds that never move. They were based on actual mammatus clouds (pouches that sag from some thunderstorm clouds). "We call them boba clouds because they look like tapioca balls," Rogers told *The Week Junior*.

Peter has "grit and determination," Pistor said, and one important element of the story is how he acts on "things that he believes in to change the world." Pistor said he shows "you can be empathic and kind, and also a hero and brave." Caring isn't a sign of weakness, she added: "When you look at people and think about how they're feeling and what they're going through, it gives you a superpower that makes you amazing."

More DiCamillo adaptations

Because of Winn-Dixie

In this film, Opal moves with her father to a small town. A friendly stray dog helps her make friends, land a job, and become part of her new community.



Flora & Ulysses

Kate DiCamillo

This funny movie revolves around a girl named Flora who rescues a squirrel she names Ulysses. He ends up gaining superhero powers and helps her look at the world in a new way.



The Tiger Rising

Rob, a boy whose mother has died and who is bullied at school, is at the center of this magical drama. It follows what happens after he finds a caged tiger living in the forest behind his home.



Arts and entertainment





Asian American gets lead role

Chang Can Dunk, one of the first young adult films with a main character who is an Asian male, is now on Disney+. The new comedy is an inspiring story about a basketball-obsessed teen.

The movie follows Asian American high

school student Chang (played by Bloom Li), who plays in the marching band and loves Pokémon and basketball. Hoping to impress his peers and his crush, he bets his school's star basketball player that he can make a slam dunk by the last game of the season. Chang has 12 weeks to learn how to do it. The mission

helps him gain confidence, learn to stop caring about what other people think of him, and strengthen his relationship with his mother.

The film was written and directed by Jingyi Shao, who is Chinese American. He said it was "a

love letter to basketball" and said the sport helped him "better understand family, friendship, and the Asian American and immigrant experience." He was inspired by sports movies such as *The Mighty Ducks* and *The Karate Kid*. "I love stories about

self-empowerment, about characters wanting to be more than they are," he told Screen Rant.

Growing up, Shao didn't see kids who looked like him on screen, so it was important to him to have an Asian American character at the center of his film. "It represents the future," he told *Variety*, "but also is a call back to the early '90s," when

Asian Americans didn't have many chances to be the main character. He added that *Chang* is an underdog story for someone "who doesn't feel appreciated," and it shows how someone's life can change when they challenge themself.





Kiff (Disney+)

This new comedy series is set in a world where animals and magical oddballs lead lives like humans do. It centers on upbeat squirrel Kiff and her chill best friend Barry, a bunny. In each episode they navigate school, relationships, and drama in the community of Table Town.



Restaurants at the End of the World (NatGeo) (Disney+)

In this new documentary series, chef Kristen Kish travels the globe to discover the people, cultures, and secret ingredients behind restaurants in remote locations. She visits an island off the coast of Maine as well as Panama, Norway, and Brazil.



We Lost Our Human (Netflix)

Ham, a pet dog, and Pud, a pet cat, wake up one morning to discover that every human on Earth has disappeared. They set out on a journey through the universe to find their beloved owner. In this new interactive animated special, viewers help them make decisions on their quest.

READER RECOMMENDS

Star Wars: The Phantom Menace

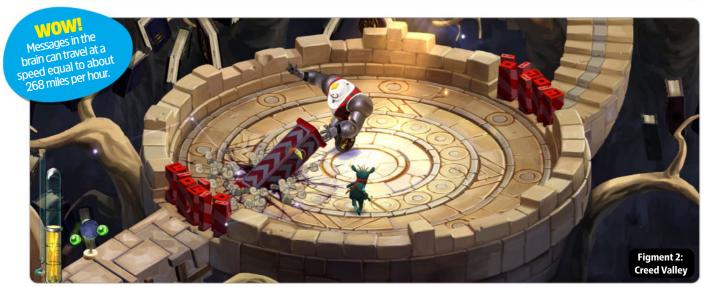
(Disney+ or rent on other platforms) **PG**

"This is the first of a nine-episode Star Wars saga. In the films, the Jedi Knights have been the guardians of peace in the galaxy for thousands of years. A longtime enemy is on the rise, and two Jedi, Qui-Gon Jinn and Obi-Wan Kenobi, are on a mission to rescue the queen of the planet Naboo from grave danger. Along the way, they discover Anakin Skywalker, a young slave boy on the desert planet of Tatooine. I love the perfect blend of science fiction, action, and comedy that this movie series provides." Nina, 13, Texas

 $\textbf{Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to} \ hello@the week junior.com.$



On screen



Game set in the human mind

Figment 2: Creed Valley is a new action-adventure musical game. It is out now for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 5, Xbox systems, and the PC.

The first Figment game was released in 2017 and had a concept similar to the film *Inside Out*. It was set in the world Figment, which is actually a person's mind. The main character, Dusty, used to be the voice of courage.

Along with his optimistic friend Piper, he explored Figment, solved puzzles, and fought creatures representing nightmares.

In Figment 2: Creed Valley, the nightmares are back. This time, they have broken the mind's Moral Compass (what helps a person know the difference between right and wrong). Dusty and Piper travel across Figment and make stops in the parts of the mind that control abilities and emotions. Their

destination is the Creed Valley, where values and beliefs are stored. Along the way, they run into nightmares such as the Black Hog, which visits when a person is stressed. The nightmares perform musical numbers that explain why they're haunting the brain. Dusty dodges their attacks during the songs.

The big villain is The Jester, who represents impulsiveness (acting without thinking). Powerful figures used to keep him in check, but now he's rebelled. It's up to Dusty and Piper to get things back under control and restore balance to the mind.

The game is meant to be fun, but it can also serve another purpose: When played with a friend or family member, it may generate interesting discussions about being open-minded or closed-minded, understanding emotions, facing fears, and more.



PODCAST # WEEK

ADVENTURE IN ATACAMA

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts In this adventure series, Mariela is on a mission to save the people of the world from losing their ability to communicate. At the end of each episode, you get to decide a character's action. Based on your choice, you find out which episode to play next. The story has 12 possible endings.



WEBSITE # WEEK



BLOOKET

blooket.com

This site helps you learn and study through fun quiz games. There are pre-made games on topics such as geography, math, and TV shows. There is also an option for you—or a teacher—to create a game from scratch. The games can be played solo or with multiple players using mobile devices.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

SKIJORING: THE WILDEST WINTER SPORT YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Skijoring

Find out about skijoring, a winter sport from Scandinavia. (In Norweigan, skikjøring means "ski driving.") It features skiers being pulled by animals or vehicles. This video shows a competition where a horse pulls a racer through a course with jumps.



Book club



BOOK OF THE WEEK

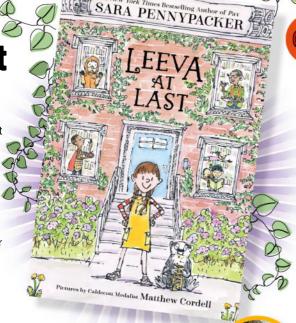
Leeva at Last

By Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Matthew Cordell (Balzer + Bray)

Leeva is age 8 or 9, but she doesn't know her exact age because her parents have never told her. Her mom is the town's mayor and her father is the treasurer, and they only want power, fame, and money. They forbid Leeva from leaving the house and don't let her go to school. One day she sneaks out and discovers the library. She's so happy to see a place with books. There, she meets Mrs. Flowers, the librarian, who has trouble walking and needs an elevator to do her job. But Leeva's mom has kept the library from installing an elevator. As Leeva sneaks out and visits places, she realizes that her parents are truly awful. She tries to find a way to stop them. Leeva's personality and the story's setting may remind you of Matilda by Roald Dahl.

WIN A BOOK! We're giving away five copies of Leeva at Last.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to contests@theweekjunior .com with Leeva in the subject line. Enter by midnight on April 7. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Sara Pennypacker

We spoke to the author of Leeva at Last.

Is Leeva based on anyone?

Yes, she's based on what's best about kids—she's smart, funny, kind, and brave. But I've never known a child who was treated the way Leeva was.

Did you have any pets growing up?

Yes, we always had pets in our house—lots of them. Mostly dogs and cats, but after reading the classic children's book *Heidi*, I insisted on raising a goat too!

What helps you write?

Something about
swimming seems to free
my mind, so I swim
almost every day, and while
I'm in the water, I always do
my pre-writing.

What do you like most about writing middle-grade books?

Maybe everything! I love that middle-grade readers are the best readers in the world.

Favorite pie to make?

Right now, it's key lime pie made with a gingersnap crust.



4 new graphic novels about sports

These illustrated books tell stories about real-life and fictional athletes.



Akim Aliu: Dreamer

By Akim Aliu and Greg Anderson Elysée, illustrated by Karen De la Vega and Marcus Williams (Graphix)

Akim Aliu, a Canadian who played in the National Hockey League, tells his inspiring story. As a child, he was the only Black player on his team and wasn't welcomed. As a professional, he also endured racism. *Ages 12 and up*



Play Like a Girl

By Misty Wilson, illustrated by David Wilson (Balzer + Bray)

When Misty Wilson was in

seventh grade, she was the only girl on her school's football team. This memoir (story of her life) shows how her passion for football affected her friendships. Misty's friends tell her that playing football is "weird," and she feels confused about staying on the team. Ages 8–12



Hoops

By Matt Tavares
(Candlewick)
Inspired by true events, this
book follows the first season of

a girls' high school basketball team. It's 1975 and the Lady Bears must make their own uniforms and aren't allowed to practice in the gym. Even without the same resources as the boys' team, they keep winning. How will they do in the state championship? Ages 8–12



Bash!

By Rudy Gobert, illustrated by Vince Serrano

(Titan)

Rudy dreams of being a

basketball star in this first book of a new series. Superstar athletes from across the galaxy compete in Bash, a high-energy version of the sport that attracts legends, gods, and rock stars. Rudy has talent, but it may not be enough to fend off evil-doers. *Ages 10 and up*



READER RECOMMENDS

The Masterminds series By Gordon Korman

"This is one of the best series I have ever read. The main characters, Eli, Amber, Tori, and Malik, live in a town called Serenity. When Eli and his friend Randy ride their bikes out of town, something weird happens. Then Randy moves, and leaves a note saying the town is 'fishy.' This book is great for anyone who likes suspense, adventure, and daring with a touch of humor." Mabel, 12, Montana

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.





Take a swing at golf

Clubs in the right

Spring is the perfect time to get outside and give this sport a try.

ore than 66 million people around the world play golf. Many people say they enjoy the sport because there are endless possibilities—you can play a short game or a long one, and every golf course is different. People of all ages can take part, too, so you can play with anyone from your friends to your grandparents. Here's how to get started.

Know the basics

The basic premise of golf has remained the same since the game was invented hundreds of years ago.

Using metal sticks called clubs, players take a stroke (swing) to hit a small ball into holes on a golf course. Courses typically have 9 or 18 holes and can have challenging obstacles like sand traps and ponds. The winner is the player who hits the ball into each hole with the fewest strokes.

Get set up with good gear

To play golf, you'll need clubs. Adult clubs may be too large, making it difficult for you to hit and control the ball. Try to use clubs specifically made for kids. You don't sma need a whole set—just a few to start out. Many golf courses have junior clubs that kids can borrow or rent. A parent can also check local social media groups for used equipment. Other things you'll need are golf balls, gloves (to prevent blisters), and shoes, which can be rented or purchased at a golf shop or sporting goods website.

Aim for proper form

The first step in playing golf is to learn the proper way to hold and swing your clubs. If you do this correctly from the start, you may save yourself from having to spend time correcting your technique later on. There may be an adult in your life who can show you the basics, or you could view online instructional videos, such as the ones at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-golf. If your town has a public golf course, it might offer clinics for kids or even camps this summer. Check with the course

or local recreation department to find out. You can also check out <u>uskidsgolf.com</u> for junior golf programs in your area.

Practice and play

The best way to get better at golf is to practice. You can get extra golf time in at a driving range, which is a place where you can pay for a bucket of golf balls, then hit them onto a big field. A putting green is

where you can work on closer shots. It will feature a small grassy area where you can putt (hit the ball into the hole with a short swing). When you feel like you're ready to play a full game on the course, book one with 9 holes. Ask for a time when your local course won't be too crowded (like a weekday afternoon). That way you'll be less likely to have other groups of golfers waiting behind you, so you can take your time and just enjoy playing.

4 sports that boost your golf game

These activities, which you may already enjoy doing, teach skills that transfer well to playing golf.

Baseball

Hand-eye coordination is important for being able to hit a baseball and send it flying. This same skill applies to hitting a golf ball off the tee.



Soccer

Running up and down a soccer field builds lower-body strength. This

can help you be stable and strong for swinging your golf clubs. Soccer can also help build the endurance to play a full 18-hole game of golf.

Tennis

When you swing a tennis racket, you're rotating your arms and shoulders. These are the same kinds of movements you need to comfortably handle a golf club.



Kayaking Propelling a

kayak through the water using a two-sided

paddle can bolster your upper-body strength, which can help you develop a more powerful golf swing.



Recycle to make a bird feeder

What you need

- Recycled plastic tennis ball container or metal coffee can
- Permanent marker
- Chopstick or small twig
- Pushpin and nail
- Scissors
- String
- Can opener
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrush
- Hot glue gun
- Bird seed

Instructions

- 1. To make a bird feeder out of a tennis ball container, first make "perches" for the birds to stand on as they eat. With the marker, make two dots across from each other on the container. With adult supervision, use a pushpin to pierce each dot to make a hole, then carefully poke with the nail to enlarge.
- 2. Continuing with an adult's help, rotate the tip of a scissors' blade to enlarge holes just enough to stick a chopstick or twig in. Push chopstick or twig through the holes, so it extends a few inches from each side of container.
- 3. Use the same hole-punching technique to create a small feeding hole about 1¼ inch above each perch. The holes should be taller than they are wide, an upright oval about ¼-inch tall and ½-inch wide.
- 4. With adult supervision, punch two more holes across from each other at the very top of the container for the string. Thread string into each hole and knot each end.
- 5. To make a bird feeder from a coffee can, start by using the can opener to remove the can bottom. Cut the can's plastic lid in half.

- 6. Paint the outside of the coffee can any way you'd like. (Prime it first if you'd like, to cover any printing on the can.) Let dry.
- 7. Place the plastic lid halves on either side of the can, lining them up with each other. Use hot glue to secure them into place. Cut a piece of string to your desired length. Thread it through inside the can and knot it.
- 8. Pick a spot where birds will be safe from predators while they perch and eat. Fill your bird feeders with seeds, then hang them spaced well apart, at eye level or slightly above.



As the weather warms up, consider riding your bike more often to get around your neighborhood instead of asking family members to drive you places. By hopping on a bike, you'll be getting fresh air and exercise and helping the environment too. Unlike motor vehicles, bicycles don't use up resources like gas and fuel or cause air or noise pollution. You could consider asking other kids in your neighborhood if they would like to bike to school, into town, or to weekend activities with you. Be sure to wear a helmet, obey traffic laws, bring a bottle of water, and lock up your bike safely at your destination.







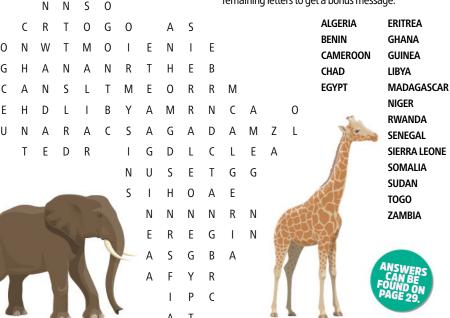
Puzzles





Word search

Can you find all these African countries in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.



Place four of the letters below to complete the first pair of words, in the same order in both words. Use the remaining four letters to complete the second pair of words, in the same order in both words. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

CEILORSV
MA A N
UUIISTY
E RA
ПОППП

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with two words so the second word is the same as

the first word with the letters ER added at the end, like TOW and TOWER.

1. I thought the I captured was a butterfly, but when my
examined the wings, she pointed out how plain-colored they were.
2. Everyone told Dad he warm up before he tried weightlifting, but now
he's injured his because he didn't.
3. My mouth was still when I left the dentist, so the receptionist gave me a
to call if I wasn't feeling better by that night.

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.

	3	5	
7			

Spot the difference These two pictures of a museum gallery appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





That's unbelievable!





The world's most delicious sport

Tony Gemignani is a pizza athlete who competes in the sport of pizza acrobatics. It involves tossing, spinning, and performing gravity-defying tricks with mounds of pizza dough. "It's hard," he said. "You'd be surprised." Pizza acrobats are judged on factors such as creativity, skill with the hands, and the difficulty of their routines. Gemignani's ability to twirl dough up to 15 feet in the air has earned him 13 championship titles at world pizza competitions and several Guinness World Records titles. "It's so rewarding," he said.

Sniffing out crime

A police force in southwest China is getting some extremely bright-eyed and bushy-tailed new recruits: six Eurasian red squirrels. The animals have been trained to help the police by seeking out drugs people have tried to hide or bring into the country illegally. Squirrels were chosen because they have an excellent sense of smell, and their small size and climbing ability mean they can get to very hard-to-reach places.



A squirrel officer reporting for duty

A lucky clover collector

Gabriella Gerhardt of Wisconsin has achieved a Guinness World Records title for the world's largest four-leaf clover collection, with 118,791 clovers. Gerhardt has been collecting the lucky plants since 2010 and previously set records for the most four-leaf clovers collected in one hour and in eight hours. Still, she said, "Every time I find one, I still get that little magic feeling."



Cat beats castle in tourist vote

There's a new king in the Polish city of Szczecin. Gacek, a tubby black-and-white cat who hangs out on Kaszubska Street, has become the city's most popular tourist attraction. After he was filmed by a local news station, the clip went viral and visitors kept giving him five-star reviews on Google Maps. By dawing his way to fame, he now has a higher rating than the city's 12th-century castle. Is this an honest "tail," or do you think it's a load of purr-fect nonsense?*



This ice cream flavor has legs

An ice cream parlor in Germany has introduced a daring new flavor. Here's the scoop: Customers can now get cricket ice cream topped with dried whole crickets. The store owner who created the flavor, Thomas Micolino, says many courageous customers have liked it. But one warned, "You can still sense the cricket in the ice cream." Micolino, who has offered liver sausage and Gorgonzola cheese flavors in the past, said, "I am a very curious person and want to try everything."

*Real! The cat's popularity has grown to the point that visitors are coming to the town specifically to see Gacek—who has also grown, because they often feed him. He lives on the street, though, and can be grumpy when woken.



Your turn

Editor's note

This year marked the 95th time the Academy Awards honoring excellence in film have been given out, and more than 18 million people watched the ceremony on TV (p5). I always enjoy seeing which actors, actresses, directors, musicians, special effects experts, and other professionals win the top honors. I also enjoy watching the nominees and other guests walk the red carpet (which was a champagne color this year) before the awards, dressed in their finest. It was especially fun to see Pinocchio and Marcel the Shell, stars of two movies nominated in the Best Animated Feature Film category, participate in the festivities. (I thought Marcel looked quite dapper in a tuxedo and dress shoes!) What is your favorite film and why? We invite you to share a movie review using the instructions in the Reader Recommends box on page 21.

> Andrea Barbalich Editor-in-Chief

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

This organization helps children achieve their full potential. It matches kids with an adult who mentors and spends time with them, such as by taking them to museums and helping with homework. It also has programs for children whose parents are in the military or in prison. The group works in all 50 states and has helped about 2 million children.

Find out more at bbbs.org.

Tell us what you enjoy about your school!

If you want to share what's great about your school, go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to print out a form. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the submissions we receive on this page in future issues.



Your word



THE WEEK IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



YOUR PHOTOS We'd love to see photos you've taken or photos with you in them! Ask an adult to email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with your first name, age, state, and anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the picture.



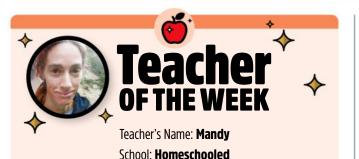
"Reading *The Week Junior* helped pass the time while waiting in line at the new Super Nintendo World at Universal Studios." Cameron, 10, California

"This was my first dish that I made all by myself. The veggie miso fried rice from your How To page was very good!" Winston, 12, New York





"I can't wait to read my new book from the Reader Recommends section." Frances, 10, Vermont



"I'm homeschooled and I think my mom should be Teacher of the Week to show how awesome she is. My entire school day only lasts about two hours, and I do things like math and language arts. I get a lot of time to do what I want during the day. I also have some other lessons because I like climbing and playing the violin and piano.

My day is always pretty fun because of that."

Willow, 10, Maryland

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!

Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekiunior.com.



Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 a) India
2 Best Actress
3 b) Dusty
4 False. It can take just five seconds.
5 Mary, Queen of Scots
6 b) Saxophone
7 True
8 a) The Bluest Eye
9 b) Skiing
10 Yellowstone
11 True
12 c) Basketball
13 An elevator
14 True
15 Pizza acrobatics

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz of the week

f this week's news can you remember?

How much of
1 A group of cheetahs recently arrived in what country in an effort to restore the animal's population there?
a) India b) South Africa c) Namibia
a b c
2 Michelle Yeoh was the first Asian woman to win an Academy Award in what category?
3 What is the name of the main character in the video game Figment 2: Creed Valley?
a) Piper b) Dusty c) The Jester
a b c
4 True or false? It takes at least a minute for people to know if they will like a song.
True False
5 Codebreakers recently deciphered letters written by what historical royal figure?
6 Which instrument did legendary jazz musician Wayne Shorter play?
a) Drums b) Saxophone c) Trumpet
a b c
7 True or false? There are more than









- **9** Mikaela Shiffrin earned her 87th career World Cup win in which sport?
- a) Skating
- b) Skiing
- c) Snowboarding



10 Which US national park spotted its first grizzly bear to come out of hibernation this year?

11 True or false? Gender equality he	lp:
women and men live longer.	

True	False	

12ThemovieChangCanDunkisabouta teen who is obsessed with what sport?

- a) Football
- b) Baseball
- c) Basketball

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13 In the book Leeva at Last, what has Leeva's mom prevented her town's library from installing?

14 True or false? Goffin's cockatoos know how to use the right tools for a task.

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Truo	امعاد	

15 Tony Gemignani has won several championship titles in what sport that involves food?

25,000 known species of orchid plants.

8 What was author Toni Morrison's first novel?

False

a) The Bluest Eye

c) Song of Solomon

b) Beloved

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